

# The Case of the Biker

## Scenario #5

Alexis Batchelor; Ethics 101; 12/8/2022

In The Case of the Biker scenario, a CT technologists' ability to provide high-quality care is questionable. To begin, a biker came into the emergency room after a collision with a car and needed a head CT scan. The man was dirty, had tattoos, and his buddies, also bikers, followed him. The imaging professional immediately assumed poor things about these men when she saw they were bikers. The men could sense the tech was scared and annoyed by them because she acted as if the biker deserved what happened to him. After treatment the biker submitted an unsatisfactory survey. The technologist's is then questioned by her manager about the survey. Due to needing an additional CT scan, he showed up the next time in his hospital attorney attire. The technologist was embarrassed to find out he was not what she presumed.

The main problem in this scenario is the CT technologist discriminated against the biker's appearance because of her own biases. Also, the technologist prejudged another person while acting superior to him. Therefore, this scenario involved egocentrism. Discrimination raises a major ethical issue for a professional. "The code of ethics for imaging professions mandate respectful services to all humankind without discrimination" (Cook & Young 2007). A solution the CT technologist could have practiced using is following the code of ethics by accepting the fact that it is not the job of an imaging professional to change a patient so that they are similar, but to understand the differences of the patient and continue to do their job. Another solution the technologist could have used is to focus on the need of the patient instead of showing irritation. The patient should always be the primary focus and not what they look like. Additionally, the best solution to this specific scenario is for the technologist to put her own biases aside and focus on the medical needs of the patient. By putting her own biases aside, the imaging professional can provide quality care.

The CT technologist did not know the biker was a hospital attorney who liked to ride motorcycles in his free time. Even though the technologist did not know this while providing care, it should not have mattered what his job title was. The scenario has many ethical and professional problems. It did not consist of any legal dilemmas such as torts, but it could have easily escalated into a legal issue. Since the biker was an attorney, he knew the legal actions that could have taken place. For example, the technologist hoping that he was a donor. This wishful thinking meant that she was not going to provide quality care so that the hospital could use his organs. The technologist failed to follow the applicable standard of care. If her failure to provide proper care would have resulted in harm to the patient, this scenario could have led to a medical malpractice lawsuit.

As a professional, it is required to avoid acting superior to all patients. Furthermore, the patient in this scenario could see that the CT technologist was scared and irritated. The imaging specialist did not act professionally. When working with patients it is required to show professionalism in all situations. Specifically, the code of ethics states “The radiologic technologist conducts herself or himself in a professional manner, responds to patient needs and supports colleagues and associates in providing quality care” (Cook & Young 263). In this scenario the CT technologist did not follow the code of ethics.

As a student in the radiography field, I understand the importance of following the code and rules of ethics. Therefore, in this specific situation, I would have provided quality patient care by getting the exam done as quickly and efficiently as possible. First, I would verify the patient’s first and last name. Second, I would have the biker change into a gown as I would any patient. Next, I would start the exam by explaining every step while also making sure that throughout the exam the patient was comfortable. After the exam, I would explain the next steps

in moving forward and transfer the patient back to where he or she came from if needed. When patients come in, I would treat them all the same. How I provide care would not make a difference whether the patient was a biker or an attorney.